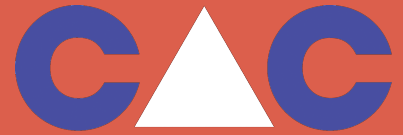




Khaleluhya

Maasai
Men's initiation Song



Cultural Arts Centre
Tumaini University Makumira

Cultural Insights:

In Maasai culture, the rituals are an important part of society. Rites of passage and 'graduating' from one age group to the next is a monumental event in the life of an individual. For the Maasai men, going from boy to man and from man to elder is an occasion celebrated by many songs and dancing, and the whole community participates.

This song is sung when the young men begin the process of initiation into manhood/warrior hood. They sing this song while on the way to the place (usually somewhere in the wilderness) where they are taught about manhood and their coming role in the society. After this education, they then proceed to the ceremony of circumcision.

Musical Concepts:

Call and Response: In many musical traditions in Tanzania, the call and response format is widely used. The Maasai are no exception. Introduce this concept with different exercises such as speaking in turn, or telling a story with a common refrain sung/spoken by the listeners. Ask for examples of how call and response is used in everyday life through speech, listening, etc.

Variations: Another aspect of many Maasai songs is that the leading part is often varied depending on the singer and the mood. This is often done without much conscious thought, and when duplicating this effect, it should be done in a carefree, easy way. Practice this with a group by providing a simple melody with lyrics and asking individuals or small groups to come up with possible variations. Ask them to change one note, a few notes, the rhythm, the words, etc.

This is especially applicable in the solo voice notation. Each call may be taken as an individual variation, and the player is free to mix and match the order of the patterns, or even create new ones. The patterns notated are a few standard variations.

Keeping Rhythm with the Body: In many Maasai songs, jumping often accompanies and accentuates the song. The jumps are on the beat, accenting the first beat with a higher, more emphatic jump when needed. Sometimes as few as one person could be jumping in the middle, sometimes the whole group joins in to create excitement. In this song, participants often jog (stepping on the beat) to generate movement and energy while singing. They continue until they reach their destination. Practice jogging on the beat by putting on a selection of music, with various tempos. Have the group jog in a circle to the beat.



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Khaleluyha

Traditional Maasai

Trascribed by Megan Stubbs

Ngayo - ni/ita - sa - sa ki - yen - gi
 Noolong niye - tu/en - gi - ka - ret
 Ita - yeta - ka/ke - won - en - da - gera
 Meeta Ena - toki re - tu - boy
 Kiwon ake iretu en - ga - yo - ne
 Etaa taa elaray ki - ri - ki

Kha - kha - kha kha - le - lu - yha

The entire song can be repeated as many times as desired.

The solo part can be varied with different melodic phrases. The lyrics "Khaleluyha" can also be used as a call.

This transcription is based on a recording from the village of Olkokola 2016

Translations (Poetic)

Links:

[Video of Khaleduya](#)



An example of some traditional Maasai women's jewelry



Maasai men jumping during a song

Credits:

Video/Audio recording:

Aliko Mwakanjuki & Gabriel Olodi

Background research:

Gabriel Olodi & Mercy Kimaro

Transcriptions:

Megan Stubbs

Translations:

Gabriel Olodi & Megan Stubbs

Curriculum

design/formatting:

Megan Stubbs

Swahili:

Kiongozi: Halleluya

Wote: Halleluya

K: Kijana pamoja na khali yeyote ya kukonda jando lazima

W: Halleluya

K: Siku hiyo uliyozingira boma

W: Halleluya

K: Ndiyo chanzo cha kupata jando

W: Halleluya

K: Jambo hili halina mbadala

W: Halleluya

K: Msaada wako kijana ni juu yako mwenyewe

W: Halleluya

K: Sasa unkwenda eneo la kiasili lenye mafunzo ya kishujaa

W: Halleluya

English:

Call: Halleluya

Response: Halleluya

C: Young man, no matter your physical state initiation is a must!

R: Halleluya

C: That day when you surrounded your house (with fence)

R: Halleluya

C: That is the beginning of being initiated

R: Halleluya

C: Once it starts you can never change it

R: Halleluya

C: Your support comes from you yourself

R: Halleluya

C: Now you are going to the traditional area to learn lessons of bravery